

Minutes of... Children's Network Policy Council

Details

Date: February 24, 2010

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor, Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

Attendees

- DeAnna Avey-Motikeit, Children and Family Services
 - Regina Coleman, County Counsel
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Corina De Leon, Inland Regional Center
 - Chris Gardner, Public Defender
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
 - Margaret Hill, SB County Superintendent of Schools
 - Kara Hunter, CASA of SB County of San Bernardino
 - Allan Rawland, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Mike Schertell, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Karen Scott, First 5 San Bernardino
 - Michelle Scray, Probation Department
 - Honorable Marsha Slough, Juvenile Presiding Judge
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Susan Starbuck, Public Defender
 - Kathy Turnbull, Children's Network
 - Kathy Watkins, Human Services Administration
 - Greg Zerovnik, SB County Library Administration
 - Brenda Dowdy, SB County Superintendent of Schools
 - George Watson, Third District Board of Supervisors
 - Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., Department of Public Health
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Slough welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. She announced Kara Hunter was just offered the full-time position as the Executive Director for CASA. **A motion was made to approve the agenda and minutes by Michelle Scray and seconded by Greg Zerovnik.**

**Special
Presentation
Youthhope:**

Amy Cousineau introduced Heidi Mayer of Youthhope from Redlands. Recently the San Bernardino Sun featured an article.

- Heidi's work seems to have a strong connection for CASE (Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation) and foster care work.
- Heidi mentioned that one in seven children will run away. There currently is one to three million children on the streets.
- Heidi's realm of influence covers; Redlands, San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Yucaipa, and Calimesa.
- Heidi shared that she has a website www.youthhoperedlands.org that gives further details about her work.
- Heidi gave some history on cases she has recently been involved.
- Heidi distributed a brochure and her business card that gave more details and contact information.
- In July, Heidi interviewed 56 homeless children in Redlands.
- Heidi has a temporary set-up at a local church where she invites the youth on Tuesdays and Thursday to come for food, respite, and a safe place to be.
- Heidi mentioned the #1 drug in Redlands being used is Heroin.
- Only 17% of the boys and girls graduate from high school.
- At least 40% of the girls either were pregnant or had babies.
- Heidi walks the streets in Redlands and offers the homeless youth sandwiches, backpacks, and some clothes.
- Heidi reaches out to these youth with any means she has possible.
- A very large need for these youth is education.
- The youth have difficulty finding jobs as they do not have any identification. Another problem is many of them do not have a high school education or equivalency.
- Many of the youth need medical care and dental care. She is able to get glasses through the local Lyons Group.
- Heidi would like to have a facility that has showers, lockers, kitchen, etc.
- She gets assistance from some students at the University of Redlands whom are able to work with the youth to interview for jobs, by showing how to fix hair, and get clothing for interviews.
- Chris Gardner mentioned that the Public Defender Juvenile section should be able to assist with clearing up records.
- Brenda Dowdy from Homeless Education from the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools was able to give the following resources; at the SAC Norton Clinic the youth can go and get medical attention, Foster Youth Services can help with identification and birth certificates, and through the United Way program if the youth see a physician they can get a \$20 gift certificate from Best Buy.
- Karen Scott of First 5 San Bernardino was able to offer resources for the pregnant and parenting teens.
- Brenda is meeting with Andre Bossieux at the San Bernardino TAY (Transitional Aged Assistance) Center to see how more children can be ..

seen there.

The youth seen at the 4 TAY Centers must have some mental health issues.

Judge Slough mentioned how important it is for the youth to have a Safe House in San Bernardino County.

Brenda mentioned the figures at the end of the 2009 school year reflected there were 19,000 homeless children and they expect a higher number at the end of this school year.

A decision was made to form a task force to deal with homeless issues of youth. The most natural fit now, is for Children's Network to chair the HYTF (Homeless Youth Task Force). The Group will be comprised of interested Policy Council members, Faith based organizations, and community based organizations. To start this group will meet on a monthly basis. Amy sees there could be two task forces; one of homeless youth, and one for pregnant homeless youth.

- Amy reported that the Shine the Light Breakfast is on March 31st at 7:30 a.m. at the National Orange Show. The rest of the awardees will be announced next week.
- The latest CASE (Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation) was on February 17th at the DBH (Department of Behavior Health) Resource Center in Rialto. Carissa Phelps was the keynote speaker. She was a sexual exploitation survivor and spoke about her experiences. The second half of the day was spent visiting girls at the Youth Justice Center.
- The next CASE training will be on March 17th 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fontana Steelworkers Auditorium, 8437 Sierra Avenue, Fontana. The keynote speaker is Rachel Lloyd from GEMS of New York. Rachel is also a sexual exploitation survivor. There has been so much interest there is a waiting list now.
- One more training event will be the Playground Screening by Lisa Goldblatt Grace. The event will be on April 13th with more details to follow. This particular training will be geared towards service providers.
- DBH staff submitted for the NACO award due to collaboration of projects by First 5 San Bernardino, 2-1-1, and Children's Network.
- Amy mentioned the first parenting conference put on by Parents Anonymous was February 25th and 26th with a huge attendance. Policy Council was a sponsor of this event.

**Children's
Network report:**

**Children's
Fund report:**

- Rebecca Stafford mentioned that Children's Fund was also nominated for a NACO award with their collaboration with TAD (Transitional Assistance Department), First 5 San Bernardino Commission, and DBH.
- They were successful in getting the allocation of \$15,000 to be used again for scholarships at the 4 local junior colleges, and CSUSB (California State University San Bernardino).
- Rebecca mentioned that they will be awarding 5 scholarships for foster youth at the Shine the Light Breakfast on March 31st.
- Children's Fund was able to assist CFS (Children and Family Services) with sponsoring the Heart Gallery that assisted with the adoption of 300 children.

**Other
Announcement:**

- Michelle Scray inquired who is in charge of 2-1-1 as she has been getting calls from the community wanting to be added. **Response: Amy will share the contact information.**
- Allan Rawland stated they will be breaking ground on May 19th in refurbishing the old H building on Gilbert Street. It will house a more comprehensive TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) Center, crisis residential with 14 beds. There will be an intensive program, but the youth will not be locked up as it is for voluntary placements of youth in emotional crisis. Allan mentioned they were able to obtain funding through the state through Proposition 63, but unsure of that funding source in the future.
- Allan asked that everyone Save the Date for, Evening with the Stars on May 19th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Greg Zerovnik announced some library events at Chino Hills and Reserve Academy.
- Kara Hunter announced that CASA will be having their Annual Walk on April 1st in the evening. There will be a short walk from the CASA office to San Bernardino City Hall. They will have 10 tables for agencies to bring their materials to share. **Amy asked that Children's Network reserve a table for the event.**

**Public
Comment**

None

Next Meeting

March 24, 2010 at noon, at the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 5th floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.
